1	2
Himachal Pradesh	6
TOTAL	264
Andhra Pradesh	523
Puducherry	7
Tamil Nadu	340
TOTAL	870
Karnataka	136
Kerala	54
TOTAL	190
Maharashtra	211
Goa	2
Daman & Diu, Dadar & Nagar Haveli.	0
TOTAL	213
GRAND TOTAL	2099

Fulfilment of Millennium Development Goal

1430.SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country would reach the Millennium Development Goal of putting all primary-aged children in schools by 2015;

(b) whether Government is aware of the global monitoring reports of Education for All and International Labour Organization stating that 57 countries would not achieve that goal by 2015;

(c) if so, what is the actual position in respect of India, as on 30th September, 2008; and

(d) what is the perspective planning to reach that goal in the remaining seven years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As per the Education for All - Global Monitoring Report 2008 of UNESCO, India is one of the 28 countries which have a high chance of achieving universal primary enrolment by 2015. As per the same report of UNESCO, 58 countries (excluding India) are not likely to achieve the goal of universal primary enrolment by 2015.

(c) The net enrolment percentage at primary level (upto class V) was 92.75% in 2006-07 as per the District Information System of Education (DISE) database.

(d) The following concrete steps have been taken to achieve the goal of universal elementary education:

i) Enhancement of budget outlays for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), a programme for Universalisation of Elementary Education, National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary level (NPEGEL) and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) scheme for the promotion of education of girl children, have been given impetus.

ii) Introduction of cooked Mid-Day Meal (MDM) scheme for all children in classes I - VIII in Government / Local Body and Government Aided Schools, and Centres under the Alternative and Innovative Education (AIE) and Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS).

iii) Levy of 2% Education Cess on all central taxes in order to bridge the gap between available plan resources and estimated requirement to finance the programme for universalisation of elementary education, specifically SSA and MDM.

Decrease in biology students

†1431. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of students opting for biology in class XI has seen a fall in the current session;

(b) whether any assessment of the reasons therefor has been undertaken;

(c) whether this fall would adversely affect the number of doctors in future; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures being contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Biology is offered as an elective 'subject in Class XI and XII. There has been a fall in the number of candidates appearing in the subject "biology" in Class XII exam being conducted by CBSE in 2008 as compared to 2007.

(b) No formal assessment of reasons has been done by the Ministry, but probable reasons include limited avenues for biology students to pursue medicine, longer duration of medicine course and preference of students for engineering courses.

(c) CBSE conducts All India Pre-Medical/Pre Dental Entrance Examination (AIPMT). In 2008, about 1.48 lakh students appeared for 2206 seats that were available. Since only a few of students opting for biology in classes XI and XII go for medicine degree, reduction in candidates opting for biology is not likely to affect the number of doctors in the near future in a significant manner.

(d) For promoting students' interest in science and inspiring them to pursue science related careers, CBSE has been organizing Regional level and National level Science Exhibitions. In addition, a number of orientation programmes for Science Teachers working in CBSE affiliated schools have been organized to enhance their professional competency.

Setting up of an international university

1432. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.